

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) A container or a preform for a container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and less than 500 ppm titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

50. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 49, said composition including at least 0.01 ppm ~~and less than 1000 ppm~~ of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

51. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein the average particle size of the ~~inorganic material~~ titanium nitride is 100 nm or less.

52. (Previously Presented) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein at least 90% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 10 microns.

53. (Previously Presented) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 10 microns.

54. (Previously Presented) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 500nm.

55. (Previously Presented) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein the polymeric material is selected from one or more of the following polymers: polyesters, polycarbonates, polyamides, polyolefins, polystyrenes, vinyl polymers, acrylic polymers and copolymers and blends thereof.

56. (Previously Presented) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein the polymer is poly(ethylene terephthalate) or a copolymer thereof; or polypropylene or oriented polypropylene.

57. (Currently Amended) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein said composition includes at least 2ppm of titanium nitride ~~and less than 500 ppm of titanium nitride~~ based on the weight of said polymeric material.

58. (Previously Presented) A container or preform according to claim 49, wherein the ratio of the weight of polymeric material to the weight of titanium nitride is in the range  $2 \times 10^3$  to  $2.5 \times 10^5$ .

59. (Previously Presented) A container or preform according to claim 49, which is a bottle.

60. (Previously Presented) A bottle comprising a composition which comprises:

- (a) poly (ethylene terephthalate) or a copolymer thereof; and
- (b) titanium nitride;

wherein said composition includes at least 2ppm and less than 500ppm of titanium nitride and the ratio of the weight of poly (ethylene terephthalate) or copolymer thereof to the weight of titanium nitride is in the range  $2 \times 10^3$  to  $2.5 \times 10^5$ .

61. (Currently Amended) A method of making a container, the method comprising:

(a) selecting a preform for a container wherein said preform has improved reheat characteristics and comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and less than 500 ppm titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material; and

(b) heating the selected preform and forming it into a container.

62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 61, wherein said polymeric material is poly(ethylene terephthalate) or a copolymer thereof and said composition includes at least 2 ppm and less than 500 ppm of titanium nitride, wherein the ratio of the weight of poly(ethylene terephthalate) or copolymer thereof to the weight of titanium nitride is in the range  $2 \times 10^3$  to  $2.5 \times 10^5$ .

63. (New) A container or a preform for a container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and 25ppm or less of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

64. (New) A container or a preform according to claim 63, wherein said titanium nitride is of average particle size of 100nm or less.

65. (New) A container or a preform for a container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride of average particle size of 100nm or less.

66. (New) A container or a preform for a container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride, wherein at least 95% of said titanium nitride comprises particles having a maximum dimension which is less than 100nm.

67. (New) A container or a preform for a container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride, said container or preform having an  $L^*$  of at least 54.47.

68. (New) A container or a preform according to claim 67, which comprises less than 500ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

69. (New) A container or a preform according to claim 68, wherein said titanium nitride is of average particle size of 100nm or less.

70. (New) A transparent container or a preform for a transparent container, wherein said container or preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride.

71. (New) A container or a preform according to claim 70, wherein said composition comprises less than 500ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material and wherein said titanium nitride is of average particle size of 100nm or less.

72. (New) A preform for a container, wherein said preform comprises a composition which comprises a polymeric material and titanium nitride and displays improved reheat.

73. (New) A preform according to claim 72, wherein said composition comprises less than 500ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

74. (New) A preform according to claim 73, wherein said titanium nitride is of average particle size of 100nm or less.

75. (New) A preform according to claim 74, wherein said polymeric material comprises poly(ethylene terephthalate).

76. (New) A method of improving the reheat properties of a preform for a container, the method comprising making said preform from a composition which comprises a polymeric material and less than 500ppm of titanium nitride based on the weight of said polymeric material.

77. (New) A method according to claim 76, wherein said titanium nitride is of average particle size of 100nm or less.

78. (New) A method according to claim 76, wherein said polymeric material comprises poly(ethylene terephthalate).